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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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April 9, 2007

Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni
Director
National Institutes of Health
1 Center Drive
Mail Stage Code 122, Room B-155
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Zerhouni:

The recent proposal by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to privatize aspects of the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* (EHP) has raised serious concerns in the research community, Congress, and even from within the executive branch. We are writing to request your personal assurance that no further action will be taken on this proposal until the completion of the pending congressional inquiry into the matter undertaken by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

In November 2006, NIEHS first released a request for proposals (RFP) for the privatization of EHP. This original request was marred by apparent conflicts of interest and scrapped by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in January 2007. Now it appears that NIEHS may be moving ahead with another proposal to privatize EHP. We understand that NIH, through the National Library of Medicine (NLM), intends to release a new RFP in the near future that will solicit proposals from private parties interested in publishing EHP.

The Oversight Committee has commenced an investigation into the effort to privatize EHP. On January 24, 2007, and again on March 30, 2007, the Committee requested information on the EHP proposal from NIEHS. We urge you to direct NLM to refrain from releasing an RFP or pursuing any further action with respect to EHP until the Oversight Committee concludes its inquiry.

EHP has achieved a remarkable reputation over its years of publication. It would be tragic to damage the journal with a rash or controversial proposal before the congressional inquiry is completed.

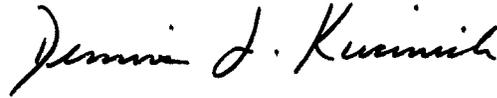
Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni
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If you have any questions about this request, you may contact us directly or your staff may contact Greg Dotson or Erik Jones with the Committee staff at (202) 225-4407.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman



Dennis J. Kucinich
Chairman
Subcommittee on Domestic Policy

cc: Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member

Darrell E. Issa
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Domestic Policy